

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, February 4, 2005

NEW MPDC REPORT ANALYZES RECENT RISE IN HOMICIDES INVOLVING JUVENILES IN DC

Even as the total number of homicides decreased 20 percent in 2004, the number of juveniles murdered in DC climbed sharply last year. Twenty-four juveniles (age 17 and younger) were murdered in 2004, nearly double the 13 killed in 2003 and 41 percent higher than the 2002 total of 17. To help government and community leaders better understand this disturbing trend, the MPDC this past week issued a new report that analyzed the 54 juvenile homicides that occurred between 2002 and 2004. The report found that while the majority of juvenile homicide victims are black males between the ages of 15 and 17, there has been an increase in the number of younger victims and younger female victims. Over the three-year period, 28 percent of the juvenile homicide victims in DC were female, compared with 11 percent of all homicide victims. Eight of the 24 victims in 2004 were younger than age 15 (including five very young girls who were killed by family members or caregivers), compared with two in 2003 and five in 2002. All but one of the 54 victims over the past three years was black, and the majority died as a result of gunfire. Three out of four juvenile homicides occur in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh police districts. Nearly four out of 10 take place between 9 pm and 12 midnight, with many also occurring during curfew hours.

- ① View the entire "Report on Juvenile Homicide in DC" (in PDF) at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/juvenilehomicide_2005.pdf

- ① The new report was issued in conjunction with a DC Council hearing on juvenile homicides, held on January 31. Read Chief Ramsey's complete statement to the Council at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2005/01/013105.shtm>

CHIEF RAMSEY ISSUES "OPEN LETTER" TO DC RESIDENTS CONCERNING 2002 ARRESTS IN PERSHING PARK

As part of the recent Settlement Agreement in *Julie Abbate, et. al., v. District of Columbia, et. al.*, a lawsuit arising from mass arrests made at Pershing Park on September 27, 2002, Chief Ramsey was required to issue a letter of apology to the seven plaintiffs. Though not required by the agreement, the Chief this past week also issued an open letter of apology to all DC residents concerning this matter. A condensed version of the letter was published in the *Washington Post's* Outlook section on January 30, and the complete letter has been posted on the MPDC website. In his letter, the Chief states that, "As taxpayers, each of you has the right to expect the very best from your Police Department, in every aspect of our operation." This includes the MPDC's handling of the numerous and myriad demonstrations that occur in DC every year, he said. "Irrespective of whether a protest is large or small, lawful or not, the Metropolitan Police Department is responsible for ensuring that a safe environment is established and maintained, so that people can express their views and petition their government.... The MPD, and law enforcement in general, must find the right balance in creating that safe environment not just some of time, but in each and every instance. In the case of Pershing Park we did not succeed, and for that I owe all of you an apology." Pointing out that there were no intentional violations of anyone's rights, the Chief wrote, "As Chief of Police, it is my duty to ensure that situations such as Pershing Park do not occur. I failed in carrying out that responsibility." Ramsey further stated that while he cannot the MPDC will be mistake-free in the future, "I promise each and every one of you that I will do everything in my power to ensure that all people can take comfort in knowing that they can come to our city, peacefully protest and enjoy the Constitutional freedoms that generations of Americans have fought and died for."

- ① Read the complete letter at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2005/01/013005.shtm>

DOWNWARD TREND IN CRIME CONTINUES IN JANUARY

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined by more than 19 percent during January, continuing the downward trend of the past few years, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. With the exception of serious assaults, which were essentially unchanged, all major crime categories declined in January when compared with reported crime in January 2004. Both homicides and sexual assaults declined by more than 30 percent last month, and stolen autos, thefts from autos and burglaries each declined by more than 20 percent. The number of assaults with a deadly weapon rose by one incident last month, from 230 in January 2004 to 231 in January 2005. The preliminary data show reductions last month in all seven police districts. The January data continue the overall trend of declining crime rates in DC. Preliminary statistics for 2004 indicate an 11.5 percent drop in serious crime from 2003. And the official 2003 data show a nearly 9 percent reduction between 2002 and 2003.

ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY—AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR—DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE IN DC

It's a day that football fans eagerly await every year. But it can also be a busy day for America's law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel. Over the years, Super Bowl Sunday has emerged as one of the highest-risks days for drunk driving—and drunk-driving crashes—on America's roadways. To help combat the problem this year, the MPDC is conducting "saturation patrols" targeting potential drunk drivers before, during and after the game. And the MPDC reminds motorists that, every day of the year, DC has tough laws against drunk driving that are being enforced by police. The Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard for Driving While Intoxicated in DC is .08 or higher, but even drivers with a lower BAC can be arrested for Driving Under the Influence. And for underage drinkers, DC has a "zero tolerance" approach to drinking and driving—practically any measurable amount of alcohol can, and does, trigger tough penalties. The penalties for first-time DWI/DUI offenders can include a six-month license revocation, a fine of up to \$1,000, and up to 90 days in jail. Penalties for repeat offenders are substantially higher.

NEWS & NOTES

Civilian Career Opportunities. The MPDC is continuing to accept applications for a variety of civilian positions in the Department, but closing dates are approaching fast. Get complete details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>.

Watch Your Car Program. Vehicle owners are encouraged to help the MPDC combat auto theft by enrolling in the free "Watch Your Car" program. Details—and an online application—can be found at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm>.

December Court Reports. Each month, the US Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases that were prosecuted in each police district during the previous month. December reports are now available at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

Hypothermia Watch. The MPDC is once again participating in the District's Hypothermia Watch program, and encourages residents to get involved as well. For details about the program, click on <http://dhs.dc.gov/dhs/cwp/view,a,3,q,492649,dhsNav,|30980|.asp>.

Community Emergency Management Exercises. DC's Emergency Management Agency is conducting a series of community emergency management tabletop exercises for residents of neighborhoods in Wards 1 through 6, on selected Saturdays through March 12, 2005. The exercises are designed to test the community emergency management plans developed by DCEMA for these neighborhoods. For more information and to register online, go to http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view,a,1226,q,621400,dcemaNav_GID,1523,dcemaNav,|31810|.asp.

- ① View the latest preliminary statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole by going to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

- ① Learn the facts about drinking and driving in DC at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm>
- ① View the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Super Bowl Planner" at:
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 2/4/05
◆ 2005: 17	
◆ 2004: 24	
◆ % Change: -29.2%	
◆ Closure Rate: 47.1% (8 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 1/29/05
◆ Total: 704	
◆ Drugs: 132	
◆ Weapons: 21	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 23	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 28	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 1/29/05
◆ Arrests: 41	
◆ Curfew Violations: 12	
◆ Truants: 43	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 2/2/05
◆ February: 13	
◆ January: 198	
◆ 2005 Total: 211	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 2/4/05
◆ 2005: 2	
◆ 2004: 5	
◆ % Change: -60.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov